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Office of University
Communications

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Future Educators Travel to Washington, D.C., to Discuss Importance of Their Profession

By Alice Byrd '18, GWU Communications Intern

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Students and faculty from the Gardner-Webb University School of Education

GWU students in Washington, D.C.

recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to tour the city and advocate for educational professionals. Among the group was Taylor Hildebrand, a first-time visitor to the nation's capital. "It may have just seemed like a small trip to Washington D.C., but I had the tremendous opportunity to experience a journey through our nation's history with my peers," shared the sophomore from Connelly Springs, N.C.

Hildebrand said the trip is just one of the ways professors at GWU have expanded her academic experience at Gardner-Webb. "The School of Education has generously given me numerous opportunities to serve my community, enhance my learning, and to sharpen my skills," she asserted.

The GWU contingent met with representatives of Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina to share their thoughts on the importance of the education profession. "During the session, the teacher candidates discussed pertinent educational issues and asked questions about upcoming educational policy initiatives," related Dr. Jason Parker, associate dean of the School of Education, who has taken students to meet with Burr's office in the past. "Being able to advocate for the teaching profession aligns directly with the standards for teacher candidates in North Carolina."

GWU students with Sen. Richard Burr

The group also toured the Capitol Building, Ford's Theatre, and visited monuments and museums on the National Mall. Seeing and experiencing these places was special for the students, because they could have an opportunity in the future to teach about their significance. "We deepened friendships and learned about the history that D.C. offers," described Rachel Pegg, a junior from Candler, N.C. "I will forever be grateful to my professors for this unforgettable trip and their devotion to our success."

From the capital to the classroom, the faculty in the School of Education is invested in helping students achieve their future goals, affirmed sophomore Cassie Craig of Lenoir, N.C. “The professors and people in the School of Education have helped me and supported me here at Gardner-Webb,” she praised. “They recognize my strengths and encourage me while also providing advice for my weaknesses.”

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